

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 7, 2005. Claims 35, 37 and 39, all of which are independent, are the only claims remaining in the application. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 30 to 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,229,540 (Tonelli) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2001/0052995 (Idehara) and further in view of RFC 1907 (Case). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns registering hierarchical location information to a device. According to the invention, at a client computer, a user inputs device attribute information to search for a desired device. The client computer receives search results, which include device information of at least one device that satisfies the device attribute information. The search result is displayed in the form of an icon. When the user shifts the icon corresponding to the search result onto a map displayed on a display, location information including information of plural hierarchies is registered to the device. As a result, once the hierarchical location information including plural hierarchies is registered in the device, a user can search for the device based on any one of the plural hierarchies. For instance, plural hierarchies such as "2-1 room" of "second floor" of "AA building" can be registered so that the device will be found in searches that have search conditions of "searching for devices in AA building", or "searching for devices on second floor", or "searching for devices in 2-1 room".

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 35 is an information processing apparatus, comprising a transmission unit arranged to transmit

device attribute information input by a user to search for a desired device, a reception unit arranged to receive, as search results, device information of at least one device satisfying the device attribute information transmitted by the transmission unit, a first display unit arranged to display icons respectively corresponding to a device of the device information received as the search results by the reception unit, a second display unit arranged to display a map on which hierarchical location information including respective location information of plural hierarchies is displayed, and a registration unit arranged to register, according to the icon being shifted onto the map, the respective location information of the plural hierarchies of the hierarchical location information defined on the map to the device corresponding to the icon.

Amended independent Claims 37 and 39 are method and computer-medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 35.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of registering, according to an icon of a device corresponding to a search result being shifted onto a displayed map, respective location information of plural hierarchies of hierarchical location information defined on the map to the device corresponding to the icon.

Tonelli is merely seen to disclose that a device on a network is discovered according to an instruction of an audit of devices on the network by a user, and then the searched result is displayed. In Fig. 52, Tonelli discloses that the location information is displayed on a search result screen. However, Tonelli is not seen to disclose that location information is registered to the device, much less that "hierarchical location information" is registered to the device.

Idehara is merely seen to disclose the use of hierarchical location information. However, Idehara is not seen to disclose that location information is registered to a device, much less that hierarchical location information is registered to the device when an icon is shifted onto a map. Thus, any permissible combination of Tonelli and Idehara is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention.

Case is merely seen to disclose that the location information is registered. However, Case is not seen to disclose the use of a map in performing the registration, and in particular, that hierarchical location information is registered to the device when an icon is shifted onto a map. Thus, any permissible combination of Tonelli, Idehara and/or Case is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention.

In view of the foregoing, each of Claims 35, 37 and 39 are believed to be allowable over Tonelli, Idehara and Case.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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